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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/690,698 | 10/23/2003 | Atsuhiko Shibasaki | 244299US2 | 9731 |

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

YOHA, CONNIE C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,698

Applicant(s)

SHIBASAKI, ATSUHIKO

Examiner

Connie C. Yoha

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

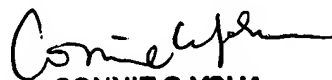
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



CONNIE C. YOHA

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/24/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Amendment filed on 6/24/05 has been entered and are made of record.
2. Claims 1-4 are pending.
3. Applicant's arguments, with regard to the reference Shioyama, with respect to claim 1-4 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) anticipated by Shioyama (6813186) has been withdrawn.
4. Claim 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Shokouhi et al, Pat. No. 6249458. The reason for this rejection has been set forth in the previous action.
5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 4 with respect to reference Shokouhi (6249458) have been considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. Newly cited references Javanifard et al (5455794) is use to reject claim 4.

Response to Arguments

- 6 Applicant's argument filed 6/24/05 have been fully considered.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-3 with respect to reference Shokouhi (6249458) have been considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument with regard to claim 1, stating that Shokouhi switch 840 of figure 3 cannot be a disconnecting device operating to disconnect the bitline. Examiner disagrees to this statement. Examiner believes that Shokouhi switch 840 of figure 3 does operate as a disconnecting device. As stated by

the applicant's argument, Shokouhi shows bit line control circuit 800-A to includes switch 820 and switches 830 (applicant named each of them as being an unlabeled transistor) connected through a line BLL to a switch BLL SWITCH 440 (see fig. 3). As can be seen from figure 8, switches 830 (the unlabeled transistor) is the transistor 813 of Figure 8 of Shokouhi, since transistor 813 in figure 8, too is connected through a line BLL to a switch BLL switch 440. Applicant further stated that transistor 813 operates as a disconnecting device, disconnecting the bitline BL0-BLX based on the BLL signal of the BL SWITCH 440. Since transistor 813 of figure 8 of Shokouhi has a property of isolate (disconnect) a bitline, and that transistor 813 is the switches 830 in figure 3 (the unlabeled transistor), then it reasonable to say that switches 830 in figure 3 also have property to isolate (disconnect) a bitline. Furthermore, because Shokouhi disclosed in column 4, line 61-63, that "the switches 840 in fig. 3 operate in a manner similar to switches 830", Shokouhi's switches 840 also have a property to disconnect a bit line. Therefore, Shokouhi does teach or suggest a disconnecting device (fig. 3, 840) provided between at least one of the plurality of bit lines and the Y decoder, and configured to electrically disconnect the at least one of the plurality of bit lines and the Y decoder.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shokouhi et al, Pat. No. 6249458.

With regard to claim 1, Shokouhi discloses a memory device comprising: a plurality of word lines (fig. 3, WL0-WLY), a plurality of bit lines (fig. 3, BL0-BLX) and a plurality of memory cells (fig. 3, 125), said plurality of memory cells each being connected to one of the plurality of word lines and one of said plurality of bit lines (fig. 3); a Y decoder (fig. 3, 850) configured to drive said plurality of bit lines; and a disconnecting device (fig. 3, 840) provided between at least one of said plurality of bit lines (fig. 3, BL0-BLX) , and said Y decoder (fig. 3, 850), and being configured to electrically disconnect said at least one of said plurality of bit lines and said Y decoder (col. 8, line 57-64) (also with regard to claim 2 and 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Javanifard et al, Pat. No. 5455794.

With regard to claim 4, Javanifard discloses a plurality of memory cells (fig. 2, memory array 26), each being connected to one of a plurality of word lines (fig. 2, WL connect to the gate of memory transistor 28) and one of a plurality of bit lines (fig. 2, BL connect to the drain of memory transistor 28); a Y decoder (fig. 2, Bitline decoder 27) configured to drive said plurality of bit lines; a charge pump circuit (fig. 3, 32) connected to the Y decoder (fig. 2, bitline decoder 27) through a first switching circuit (fig. 3, 35 and 36, providing charge pump voltage as a source voltage V_{ppl}) and a port circuit (fig. 3, 31) configured to supply an external voltage to said Y decoder (fig. 2, bitline decoder 27) and connected to said Y decoder through a second switching circuit (fig. 3, 34, providing external supply voltage as a source voltage V_{ppl}) (col. 5, line 24-27 and col. 5, line 56-col. 6, line 26).

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

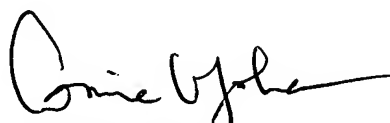
Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is (571) 272-1799. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 PM. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0956.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> should you have questions on access to the Private Pair system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


C. Yoha

September 2005


CONNIE C. YOHA
PRIMARY EXAMINER